

Accountable Now

Board of Trustees Meeting

5 March 2020

Minutes

Present

Colm O'Cuanachain, Independent (Chair of the Board) *(Non-member)*

Olivier Guth, Adra (Treasurer) *(Member)*

Belen Gonzalez, TECHO *(Member)*

Amy Taylor, CIVICUS *(Member)*

Alex Sardar, Independent *(Non-Member)*

Elie Gasagara, World Vision International *(Member)*

Rosa Inés Ospina, Rendir Cuentas *(Non-Member)*

In attendance from the Secretariat

Rocío Moreno, Executive Director

Mary Sprague, Administrative Assistant (Minute taker)

Apologies

Betty Ho, Taiwan Fund for Children and Families *(Member)*

Jo Thompson, Independent *(Non-member)*

Jose Faura, Educo *(Member)*



Welcome and agree on agenda (ACC 20/01)

- The [last meeting minutes](#) were approved.
- Most action points from the last Board meeting have either been completed or are currently being processed.
- Trustees gave feedback on current issues in relevant sectors. The [major topic discussed was the coronavirus situation](#). Accountable Now should prepare a communication on what we are doing regarding the situation. Also, Trustees and Secretariat will continue to watch what other organisations are doing (ie. imposing travel restrictions for their staff or implementing work from home procedures).

Executive Director's Report (ACC 20/02)

The Executive Director provided an update on developments since the last Board meeting in November.

- The [2020 Trend Report](#) will be launched soon. Rather than releasing the entire report at once, it will be released in thematic sections.
- The [Global Standard face-to-face](#) meeting, scheduled for February in Bangkok was canceled due to the coronavirus situation. This was planned to be replaced with a March meeting in Berlin, however a [Accountable Now will need to make a decision](#) whether this meeting can go ahead.
- [Accountable Now](#) Secretariat has been engaged in conversations with several donors regarding potential opportunities for funding.
- The [ED gave an HR update](#). Hector Payo will be joining Accountable Now as a [Membership and Reporting Manager](#). Hallie Stava will be joining Accountable Now for four months as a [Communications Intern](#).
- A discussion was held regarding whether Accountable Now should be more strict with [members who are late in filing their accountability reports](#). Also, it should be made clear on the website what the status of each member's reports are, whether completed, under review, or overdue. Currently, Accountable Now has clear rules establishing the process to help overdue members get up to date. It was decided that the Board should discuss establishing an action plan to help support the ED in dealing with non-compliant members, in the event that the current process does not work.
- The [ED briefed the Trustees on the new website](#). It was stated there are plans to



display the current status of each member's reporting process.

Membership and IRP Update (ACC 20/03)

- The **Secretariat** gave an update on the **February remote IRP** meeting.
 - The rating system (1-4) used by the IRP is not always clear in specific questions. The Secretariat should give the IRP more direction in how to assess
 - The engagement between the Board and the IRP needs to be guided by policy. Currently there are limited terms in how these parties engage.
 - The IRP welcomes Chilufya as the new IRP Chair. There will be Board elections later in the year. To maintain diversity in the IRP, a female candidate would be preferable.

Finance and Legal Update (ACC 19/32 & 19/33)

The Treasurer and Executive Director gave an update on financial and legal issues.

- Accountable Now ended 2019 with a small deficit. This was due to unpaid membership fees and money spent on recruitment. The Treasurer will make a final attempt to try and collect unpaid fees.
- The **Board and Secretariat** will need to make a decision in regards to its **membership fees** (to match inflation). The Secretariat will perform market analysis to understand trends in fee structure and explore alternatives.
- **Accountable Now's German registration** has been completed. TrustLaw to provide legal advice in **dissolution of the UK Charity**.

Strategic points to raise and discuss with the Board (ACC 20/05)

- The **Secretariat and Trustees continued an ongoing discussion** on how much to align with other organizations providing similar service. There is a risk of duplication and redundancy.charities- if similar to the UK definition it will be easier to transfer funds from the UK to Germany.
- Accountable Now should emphasize its process as a **learning journey** with members, rather than a compliance-based approach.



- The Board would like to [continue the strategic discussion](#) during the next face-to-face meeting.

Board and Trustees (ACC 20/06)

The Board Chair gave an update on changes in the Board and a summary of the one-on-one calls held between the Chair and each Trustee individually.

- The [Trustees voted to appoint Amy Taylor](#) as the new [Vice Chair](#)
- There is an [opening for a new Trustee](#). The [Board will support the ED](#) in identifying suitable candidates for this role.

Any Other Business (ACC 20/07)

- The Secretariat and Trustees agreed to [postpone the May face-to-face meeting](#) given the risks and travel restrictions due to the coronavirus. The May face-to-face meeting will be replaced with a [virtual meeting](#) and the [next face-to-face meeting and the AGM are planned for Fall 2020](#).
- In May, a [virtual meeting](#) will be held for member's to take care of [mandatory annual business issues](#).

The Trustees finished the meeting with a closed session without the Secretariat.

The next meeting will take place on 12/13 May (virtually via Zoom).

END